TO THE GLORY OF THE SUPREME ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE

ORDO AB CHAO • DEUS MEUMQUE JUS

CIRCULAR OF PEACE No. 2

TO THE TWO HEMISPHERES

A Fraternal Call for Peace, Dialogue, and Archival Restraint

On the Occasion of the 225th Anniversary of the Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A.

May 31, 2026 C.E. • Anno Lucis 6026 • Anno Mundi 5786

Addressed with fraternal respect to:

Illustrious Brother James D. Cole, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander
The Supreme Council, 33°
Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry
Southern Jurisdiction, United States of America

Illustrious Brother Sovereign Grand Commander Cole, Active Members, Sovereign Grand Inspectors General, Officers, Brethren, historians, archivists, and sincere laborers of the Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., and all brethren of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite throughout the two hemispheres:

Peace, wisdom, and fraternal respect.

On the occasion of the 225th anniversary of the Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., we extend sincere congratulations to its Sovereign Grand Commander, Active Members, Officers, Valleys, Orients, scholars, archivists, and brethren. Two hundred and twenty-five years of institutional labor is no small matter. Whatever questions of history may remain for careful study, no honest Mason can deny that the Southern Jurisdiction has built a visible and enduring legacy of organization, education, publication, architecture, philanthropy, and service within the Scottish Rite world.

We therefore salute the labor, sacrifice, and devotion of the many generations who have preserved that house according to their understanding of duty.

This Circular is not issued as an act of submission. It is not a petition for absorption. It is not a surrender of our name, archives, lineage, rites, rights, seals, claims, duties, or custodianship. The Ancient Scottish Rite of Hérédom 1807™ stands upon its own record, its own constitutional law, its own French, Caribbean, New York, and later custodial witnesses, and its own obligation to preserve what was entrusted to it.

But sovereignty does not require hostility.

Dignity does not require contempt.

Truth does not require war.

If we ask the world to receive the archives of the Ancient Scottish Rite of Hérédom 1807™ with fairness, then we must also acknowledge the archives of others with fairness. Accordingly, we recognize that the Bibliothèque nationale de France preserves the manuscript register identified as FM1 (1)-FM1 (541). Archives centrales. France. Suprême Conseil du 33è degré de Grasse-Tilly, dated 1796-1818, contributed by the Suprême Conseil du 33è degré de Grasse-Tilly, held in the Département des Manuscrits as FM1 (285), including the cited reference at pagination no. 14, folio 6 verso. We cite this not as a weapon and not as a concession of our own custody, but as evidence that the Southern Jurisdiction's historical current, like our own, belongs to the serious archival record of the Rite.

The archives now before us are too important to be reduced to instruments of insult. They should be used as lamps. They illuminate a wider and more complicated story: Morin, Saint-Domingue, Cuba, Charleston, New York, France, Hacquet, Cerneau, de Grasse-Tilly, Atwood, Hays, Seymour, Yarker, and the many custodians who, in different ways and under different understandings, inherited portions of a history larger than any one man or any one generation.

We believe the time has come to end the old habit of inherited polemic.

The controversies between Charleston and New York, between Cerneau and his opponents, between later Northern and Southern claims, and between printed narratives and archival witnesses were not created by the brethren now living. They were inherited. We do not believe that today's brethren should be condemned to continue a war of words that they did not begin.

Therefore, while congratulating the Southern Jurisdiction on its 225th anniversary, we also extend a respectful call for peace.

- Let the archives guide us, but not wound us.
- Let history be studied, but not weaponized.
- Let no brother be required to abandon his house in order to speak honestly with another.
- Let no dialogue require surrender, merger, recognition, submission, or erasure as a precondition.
- Let each body preserve its own dignity while approaching the record with scholarly fairness and fraternal restraint.

The Ancient Scottish Rite of Hérédom 1807™ asks for no humiliation of the Southern Jurisdiction. We do not ask its brethren to deny the labor of their forefathers. We do not ask them to surrender the honors, institutions, libraries, temples, charities, or educational works built through centuries of devotion.

We ask only that the Cerneau, New York, French, Caribbean, and Hérédom witnesses be approached without inherited contempt.

A record should not be rejected merely because it is inconvenient.

A lineage should not be mocked merely because it survived outside the dominant narrative.

A brother should not be branded by words written before he was born.

In this spirit, we invite future dialogue conducted upon the level of mutual dignity. Such dialogue may begin simply: through the exchange of sources, the comparison of citations, the review of diplomatic transcriptions, and the recognition that scholarly disagreement need not become fraternal hatred.

We are not asking for war. We are asking for peace.

We are not asking that old wounds be reopened for spectacle. We are asking that they be finally understood, cleaned, and allowed to heal.

We are not asking that any brother betray his jurisdiction. We are asking that all brethren remember that jurisdiction is not hatred, history is not insult, and archives are not enemies.

On this 225th anniversary, may the Southern Jurisdiction celebrate its centuries of tradition with dignity, gratitude, and light. And may this generation of Scottish Rite Masons, in both hemispheres, have the courage to do what earlier generations could not always do: preserve truth without cruelty, defend heritage without arrogance, and open dialogue without fear.

The archive shall guide us. • Peace shall restrain us. • Truth shall correct us. • Brotherly love shall preserve us.

So declared in the spirit of fraternal peace, archival dignity, and fidelity to the Supreme Architect of the Universe.

ORDO AB CHAO • DEUS MEUMQUE JUS

Issued from the desk of

A. L. GUERRA, 33°
Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander
Supreme Council of the Thirty-Third Degree
Ancient Scottish Rite of Hérédom 1807™
for the United States of America, its Territories and Dependencies

Date: May 31, 2026 C.E. • A.L. 6026 • A.M. 5786

ARCHIVAL CITATION ACKNOWLEDGED

If we ask the world to accept our archives, we must acknowledge the archives of others. The following source is cited in that spirit: as evidence of archival respect, not surrender; as scholarly recognition, not concession.

Chicago Notes/Bibliography

Bibliothèque nationale de France, Département des Manuscrits. FM1 (1)-FM1 (541). Archives centrales. France. Suprême Conseil du 33è degré de Grasse-Tilly. 1796-1818. Manuscript, II-115 folios. Contributor: Suprême Conseil du 33è degré de Grasse-Tilly. Source: FM1 (285). Public domain. Gallica, Bibliothèque nationale de France. ARK: btv1b10091072k. Pagination no. 14, fol. 6v.

MLA Works Cited

FM1 (1)-FM1 (541). Archives centrales. France. Suprême Conseil du 33è degré de Grasse-Tilly. 1796-1818. Bibliothèque nationale de France, Département des Manuscrits, FM1 (285), II-115 fols. Gallica, Bibliothèque nationale de France, ark:/12148/btv1b10091072k. Pagination no. 14, fol. 6v.

THE ARCHIVE SHALL GUIDE US. PEACE SHALL RESTRAIN US.